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TOWARDS THE GREAT PEACE. By Ralph Adams Cram. Boston: Marshall Jones Company.

While one may disagree with almost every one of the suggestions which Mr. Cram sets forth as possible ways of reforming or helping to reform the world, one cannot help feeling that his general point of view is essentially right. A return to the scholastic philosophy, to sacramentalism in all religion; decentralization in government, Guild Socialism in industry, a great simplification in education—these do not impress one as very hopeful counsels but rather as counsels of despair. The truth is, perhaps, that what we need is not a definite return to any philosophy, system, or form of religion, but rather a recognition of the value of certain elements that we are in danger of losing out of our lives, a return to first principles.

Signs that some such process of return and resumption is now going on are not wholly wanting. The movement toward industrial democracy is, for example, in spirit not unlike the old guilds. In no very conspicuous ways, but in the writings of poets and essayists having a small but intelligent public and still more perhaps in the smaller social groups, and in the thought of individuals, there is a reaction against materialism, a desire for simpler things, a disposition to cling to the old moralities and to what is vital in the old faiths.

However this may be, Mr. Cram is surely right when he declares that character is "the chief end of man and the sole guarantee of decent society". He is doubtless equally correct in saying that "however strange and erroneous the actual manifestation, there is no question as to the reality and prevalence of the desire for the recovery of spiritual power through the channels of religion". Practically every suggestion that he makes and discusses is a vivid illustration of these attitudes—an illustration all the more illuminating because extreme;—and in this fact lies the principal value of the book.

ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. By Baron Friedrich von Hügel, LL. D., D. D. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.

A book that seeks essentials and at the same time fearlessly recognizes difficulties is almost always a good book. Such a work is Baron von Hügel's *Essays and Addresses*. Two characteristics distinguish it from most of the religious reading with which the general reader is likely to be familiar. In the first place, it is at the same time devout in spirit and adequately cognizant of the higher criticism—this without being at all polemical. In the second place it proceeds by the somewhat scholastic method of making distinctions. These distinctions, perhaps, neither exhaust the content of moral consciousness nor enable one to reach an independent basis for ethics. Nevertheless, they seem to drive a wedge into the soul and to force consideration of what lies nearest its centre. There is certainly wisdom, for example, in the distinction between sins of impurity that are, so to speak, below human nature, and sins of pride that are in a certain sense above it.